that he was a good risk for early parole.

The jury had several choices. They could have said he must wait the full 25 years, or they could have set a specfic date at which he could present another motion.

Chartrand must now apply to the National Parole Board which will decided if he is reformed and should be released from jail.

During two weeks of testimony, the jury heard the grim story of Char- years ago, welcomed Saturday's decision.

"I believe rehabilitation is possible when we really try and when the authorities collaborate, which they did with us," said Champagne-Gilbert.

"It was just another dossier at the beginning but Real has become one of my three best friends," he said.

The case will have repercussions on the 323 men and women convicted of first-degree murder in the last 10 years

Victed killer Real Chartrand has won the right to apply for early parole after Quebec Superior Court decided yesterday to let Chartrand take advantage of an ammendment to the Criminal Code.

20th Century disease sufferers get big boost from government

By Sherri Armstrong
The Sunday Herald

Chris Brown suffered from unexplained anxiety, depression and bouts of confusion for years.

A seemingly endless round of doctors and psychiatrists could not pinpoint what was wrong with him, and general reaction to his strange mood swings was negative.

Brown, 36, was finally diagnosed five years ago as being hypersensitive to the environment; he had what's known as "20th Century disease".

But his battle didn't end with the diagnosis.

The Ottawa publicity consultant still had the task of removing himself from the effects of everyday environmental pollutants such as printing inks, cigar and pipe smoke and pesticides, that were affecting his mental health.

Limited public awareness of the disease hampered his initial efforts, and the efforts of others like him, to deal with the problem.

Five years ago, Health and Welfare Canada claimed 20th Century disease didn't exist; that people's symptoms were imaginary.

But yesterday Brown and about 150 of his fellow sufferers, members of the Human Ecology Foundation, gathered at a conference at the Holiday Inn on Kent Street to celebrate the recent recognition of their disease by the provincial and federal governments.

Brown said the endorsement by the government "legitimizes" the disease, and represents a long, hard struggle for acceptance.

20th Century disease has been defined as a chronic disorder that generally affects the central nervous system and one other system.

Peterson tells Liberals to be ready for vote

TORONTO (CP)— Ontario Liberals should be ready to fight an election any time now, Premier David Peterson said yesterday.

Peterson also told delegates to the party's annual meeting he has not made up his mind whether to call an election this spring.

"But I need this party ready at any time so we can make that decision," the premier said in a rousing, campaign-style luncheon speech.

"I need your support; I need you ready, willing and able to go whenever that decision is made.

"I will need your help when the (election) writ is issued to take the message to every door, every poll every concession road, every farmhouse; everywhere in this province."

The pre-election pep talk drew loud applause from about 1,500 party members attending the three-day meeting, which was described as the largest in the party's history.

In an interview later, Peterson said he is willing to participate in a televised debate with the Conservative and New Democrat party leaders during an election campaign.

Runciman says he'll seek PC nomination

Leeds MPP Robert Runciman yesterday announced his candidacy for the Progressive Conservative nomination in the provincial riding of Leeds-Grenville.

Runciman has spent six years in the Ontario Legislature, during which time he held two Cabinet portfolios and served on several Cabinet committees.

At present he is the Critic for Consumer and Commercial Relations and Financial Institutions.

Black cloud 'no threat'

MINOT, N.D. (AP)— A black cloud of toxic fumes from a chemical warehouse fire in Minot posed little threat to Canada, U.S. and Canadian officials said yesterday.

Winds were blowing from the south, but Bill Moyle, a spokesman for the Manitoba Environment Department, said the cloud would likely dissipate before reaching the border about 100 kilometres north of Minot.

"It appears at this time to be a local situation," said Moyle. "So far, I don't think it's going to come up here."

In Minot, half the city of about 32,800 people were asked to leave their homes yesterday morning as fumes from a fire at the Westchem Agricultural Chemical Inc. plant blew over the city.